



Big Pines Volunteers

Volunteer NEWSLETTER

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"100 years of Caring for the Land and Serving People"

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Special points of interest:

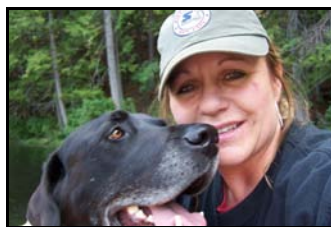
- Snow permitting, Grassy Hollow will be offering a "Full Moon Snowshoe Hike" on March 19th at 7:00 pm.



- Remember your Adventure Pass...



Where is Micheline now?...



Micheline Bradley-Riley

Big Pines – This year marks the five year anniversary of the Volunteer group working out of the Big Pines station. Micheline Bradley-Riley is the one primarily responsible for the group's inception.

With thousands and thousands of visitors to the Big Pines area, she envisioned a volunteer group to work mainly in the field, interacting with the public. This group of volunteers would complement the already very successful Grassy Hollow Volunteers that ran the Visitor's Center and many interpretive programs.

Micheline has always been an advocate of volunteerism. She grew up on ranches in Simi Valley, Moorpark and Angels Camp. "I believe I was born with a love and appreciation for the great outdoors," says Micheline.

As a resident in the Big Rock Creek area from 1995

to 2005 she was horrified at the overuse and destruction of the area. Wanting to make a difference she became a Forest Service Volunteer and worked in the Big Pines, Valyermo and Litcherock Dam areas from 1995 to 1999.

In 2001 Micheline became a Forest Protection Officer and began working as a seasonal employee. In 2003 she landed a permanent position, working out of the Big Pines Station.

Mike Worshum and Bob Morgan had been volunteers working with the CDFG and USFS with regards to the San Gabriel Bighorn Sheep Restoration Project.

After an apparent rash of poaching, the idea of being more visible and using USFS volunteers to help in educating the public about Bighorns being protected was discussed. Mike went to Micheline with the idea. It was exactly what Micheline was looking for and together they set their minds to making it happen. There was a group of about fourteen in-

dividuals who were willing to volunteer and offer their time and assistance.

Micheline contacted the Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) in charge of conducting the Forest Protection Officer classes and the group of new volunteers attended the class. They were trained in writing NNCs for Adventure Pass Violations, Warning Notices and Incident Reports. Volunteer Agreements were signed, fingerprints taken and by the fall of 2006 they were out in the field.

An opportunity came up for Micheline to transfer within the Forest Service to the state of Idaho. Since 2007 she has been working on the Bonner's Ferry District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

Micheline is very happy that volunteering continues in the Big Pines area. "I am enjoying my new life here in Bonners Ferry, Idaho and I thank my lucky stars everyday to be here. I think of my Grassy Hollow and Big Pines Volunteers with great respect, fondness and admiration."

Fresh powder brings heavy crowds...



Safety Tips... Driving in Hazardous Conditions...



As winter turns to spring road conditions can be particularly hazardous with wet, snowy or icy surfaces. Hazardous surfaces demand skillful driving and the use of special techniques.

How to avoid skids:

- Keep speed well below dry-road speed.
- Keep vehicle pulling steadily, trying to avoid bringing it to a complete stop.
- Make no sudden changes in speed, gears or direction.
- Avoid driving too fast on curves.
- Avoid applying the brakes too suddenly or too hard. Pump the brakes to slow down.
- Never use the cruise control when driving on slippery surfaces.

If the vehicle should start to skid, the following procedures will help.

How to get out of a skid:

- Avoid braking. Slamming on the brakes when a vehicle is skidding locks the wheels and causes loss of traction and steering.
- Turn the front wheels in the direction of the slide. As the vehicle begins to straighten, straighten the front wheels.
- Avoid oversteering. Turning the steering wheel too far whips the rear end into a skid in the opposite direction.
- Avoid lifting your foot from the accelerator suddenly. Maintain power to the driving wheels and slow down.

Big Pines History... "A Road Runs Through It"



Photo: Pomona Public Library, collection of Barbara Van Houten, used for educational purposes only: Not to be reproduced.

Big Pines, CA – These days to get to Big Pines it takes about an hour from what the mountain people call the "flat lands". Over eighty years ago the trek was a little more daunting; you went over a two lane road through Devore and Cajon Pass, up the laborious Lone Pine Canyon Road and through the small village of Wrightwood over the Swarthout National Forest Highway made of hard packed soil.

In 1924 the only entrance to the Big Pines Park was the extreme eastern gate located right across from the entrance of Mt. High East Ski Area. In the picture above, notice the "Big Pine Los Angeles County Park" sign over the gate instead of "Big Pines". The park's original name caused court legal problems and confusion with the post office because of the other "Big Pine" near Bishop, California. Because of this the entrance was replaced in 1927 with the sign "County of Los Angeles - Big Pines Recreation Park" and had a guard post to sign in as you entered. The Swarthout National Forest Highway stopped at the archway at the Big Pines Park center.

The west end of Big Pines Park was far from being closed to traffic. Roads were already branching out from the Palmdale, Pearblossom and Valyermo areas.

Tying in the road from present day Elk Camp to Big Pines was a chore that was

completed by inmates from Los Angeles County Jails. Work was started in 1922 and would take several years. The main road traveling west from the Big Pines Arch area was referred to as Jackson Lake Road and it allowed for westbound single lane traffic.

The Shoemaker Canyon By-pass Road would allow for eastbound single lane traffic. This road took off just a half mile west of Big Pines, just past the south end of Arch Campground. The road stayed east of the San Andreas Fault and terminated at Apple Tree Flat, near the Big Pines Park Playground area. A bridge of cedar wood was constructed that crossed a portion of upper Mescal Canyon. The bridge rose sixty feet over the canyon!

The Shoemaker Bridge crossed the span of Mescal where the by-pass road intersected with the present day Big Pines Highway 1/8 mile after the large "S" curve. The location of the bridge was directly across from the location of the old Camp Metaka.

The Shoemaker Bridge was washed out in 1943 (about the time that the ice rink was no longer in use), and Jackson Lake Road, which was later designated as CA-CN4-Big Pines Highway, was improved and widened to allow for two way traffic.

Big Pines Park was finally approachable from both the east and the west. All it took was some driving nerve, a reliable car, plenty of gas and a few hours of driving to kill.

Today, getting to Big Pines is a piece of cake. "Big Pines - Los Angeles County Park" waited for visitors then as it still waits for them now. It takes less time now to reach your destination, but watch your speed and stay within the white lines... no fair passing on the double yellows. If you drive safe, you'll arrive in one piece to enjoy the forest's resources and beauty.

-Contributed by Terry Graham

On the road to Big Pines



c. 1925

(Photo: From the Collection of Terry Graham)



c. 1925

(Photo: From the Collection of Terry Graham)



1930

(Photo: From the Collection of Bob Morgan)



"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Weather Extremes Big Pines Station

February 2011

Low: 27th 9°

High: 7th 64°

Wind: 16th 55

Precipitation: 2.22 in



**Grassy Hollow
Visitor's Center**

www.grassyhollow.net

Volunteers of the Angeles...

Grassy Hollow – Construction of the Grassy Hollow Visitor Center began in 1993. The exterior was completed in 1994; but the interior was not completed until 1995.

Due to lack of staff and funds, the Center was closed and vacant for one year. A group of interested local Wrightwood residents led by Helga Wallner organized under the name Wrightwood Volunteers, and with permission from the Forest Service, opened the Visitor Center in 1996. In 1999 in deference to the many volunteers from other communities, Wrightwood was dropped and the name was changed to **Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest**.

The Volunteers staff the Visitor Center and supply information, directions and education to the public by means of their knowledge of the area, pictorial displays and video presentations of forest lore, as well as their extensive display of preserved local animals, birds and reptiles.

In addition, they maintain a feeding station to provide a local bird appreciation and viewing opportunity from the Visitor Center deck.

Meetings of the Volunteers are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the United Methodist Church located at 1543 Barbara Street in Wrightwood. All meetings are open to the public, and the Volunteers would welcome the opportunity to explain their group and its mission in detail. They are always happy to have new members.



This past year a new metal roof was installed on the Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center

Last Chance?...

Grassy Hollow – During the last half of January and the first half of February, snowshoe hikes were not offered out of Grassy Hollow due to lack of snow. With the recent storms, these hikes will again be made available on Saturdays, snow permitting. Snowshoes are provided free of charge, though they only have 11 pairs, so bring your own if you have them. Reservations by email should be made at least 24 hours prior to the hike.

The hike takes off from the Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center, beyond Mt. High on Hwy 2 at 11 am and lasts about 2 hours. Be sure to allow plenty of time to get to Grassy Hollow as "snow traffic" can cause considerable delays. You'll need a valid Adventure Pass for your vehicle. Also bring water and wear appropriate clothing.

To reserve your snowshoes send an email to: d.a.mclain@verizon.net. Provide your name, phone number and number of people in your group, their ages and the how many snowshoes you'll need.

Full Moon Snowshoe Hike: This month, snow permitting, a Full Moon snowshoe hike will be offered on Saturday, March 19th at 7:00 pm.





c. 1925



c. 1930

Interested in Volunteering out of the Historic Big Pines Station?

Call: (760) 249-3504 or Email:
Todd Cook: mtcook@fs.fed.us or
Ron Heinig: rheinig@fs.fed.us

Photos: From the Collection of Terry Graham



The Wrightwood Communications Group has a disaster preparedness net each Sunday evening at 6:00 pm.

<http://www.kw6ww.com/>



Wrightwood CERT has weekly FRS Nets on Sundays at 5:30 pm

<http://www.wrightwoodcert.com>



Non-profit 501 (c) (3)

Upcoming meetings (3rd Tues each month)

Tues Jan 18, 2011
Tues Feb 15, 2011
Tues Mar 15, 2011
Tues Apr 19, 2011
Tues May 17, 2011
Tues Jun 21, 2011
Tues Jul 19, 2011
Tues Aug 16, 2011
Tues Sep 20, 2011
Tues Oct 18, 2011
Tues Nov 15, 2011
Dec 2011 - No Meeting

7pm, at the
Wrightwood Museum
6000 Cedar St.
(Old Fire Station)

Meeting Information:
(760) 249-5248



Current Fire Danger

The Volunteers of the Angeles...

Meetings of the Volunteers are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the United Methoist Church located at 1543 Barbara Street in Wrightwood. All meetings are open to the public.

Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest

Wrightwood, CA

grassyhollow@hotmail.com

President: Debi McLain email: d.a.mclain@verizon.net